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First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan

Nurture Your Spirit. Help Heal Our World.

January Newsletter

January 1, 2013 - Vol 9, Issue 1

Worship @ UUAU

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January 6, 2013

"Out of the Mountain of Despair - Hope"

The Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer

Optimism can be deadly; literally. But hope born again and again is the healthy and sustaining fruit of religious maturity. Are you ready to hope this year?

January 13, 2013

"Our Right to Choose"

Annual Service of Remembrance

The Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer

Each year we take time to reflect on those we love who have died in the previous year. For me, that includes mentor and friend, Dr. Beverly W. Harrison, author of *Our Right to Choose: Toward A New Ethic of Abortion*.

January 2013 marks the 40th anniversary of the Supreme Court Roe v. Wade decision. And our General Assembly has a C.S.A.I. on Reproductive Justice.

January 20, 2013

*** **Congregational Meeting at 1:15 pm*****

"We Must Push Forward"

Special Guest Preacher, The Rev. Patricia Hart with The Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer as pulpit host.

Once a year, we remind one another of the stories of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. But the civil rights movement is now long ago... the Selma marches happened 47 years ago. What is our part, today, in the unfinished work of Dr. King?

The Reverend **Patricia Hart** is a Unitarian Universalist parish minister and occasional consultant, who is fascinated by the challenges of change and growth in congregations. Tricia has served five congregations in New England and Pennsylvania; she currently serves the Unitarian Universalist Church in Lancaster, Pennsylvania as Co-Minister with her husband, the Rev. Peter Newport.

January 27, 2013

"Lean on Me: The Difficulty of Dependency"

The Rev. Mark Evens

The aging of the baby-boomer generation presents a challenging opportunity for seniors, their children and all who care for them. How do we help love abide as life ebbs? This sermon is informed by the book "A Bitter Sweet Season: Caring for Our Parents and Ourselves" by Jane Gross.



From Our Staff

Gleanings

Reflections from Rev. Gail R. Geisenhainer, Senior Minister



How did I miss this? How did I slide into the day and completely miss the end of the world?

I've been slogging away at the usual tasks. I try to be a good person. I floss. I indulge my addiction to CNN while pedaling nowhere on my exercise bicycle. I eat spinach - working toward kale. Our holiday cards to family are mostly sent. Celeste and I buy gifts locally. In that non-linear geography of the heart and our checkered 21st century experience of identity formation, L.L. Bean, for us, is local, right next door to Nicola's and Zingerman's. I made 7 of the 8 printing deadlines this week at the church office. There were so many extra things to write and feel and reflect upon in response to the horrendous events in Newtown, CT. I even found my red vest and bright green blouse. I researched Reproductive Justice on the UUA web site. I started on the sermon for next Sunday.

So what went wrong? How did I miss the end of the world? I thought we were all predicted to fly, weightless, into the outer reaches of space and time at midnight on December 21st. And that's how I missed it! The appointed hour of doom had already come and flown by when I heard about it via the BBC news hour on NPR.

And isn't that just the core promise in the rituals of Solstice, the stories of Christmas? Within the daily, the mundane, we find the challenges of all our endings; we find the hope of all our new beginnings. As we drift off to sleep each night there is an ending. Waking up is a beginning. Each breath we exhale relinquishes some burden, grieves the loss of some possibility. Each breath that comes into our bodies bears with it the morning light of possibility, the clarified shape of responsibility, the assurance of connection and continuation.

I hear that's the real deal with the intent of the Mayan calendar conversation: renewal. The "end of the world" is to be received as the dawn of a new age. Heck, folks, even the western European traditions so often trashed as spiritually bereft know that! We see that every year in the depictions of the Old Year moving away as a tired old man and the New Year entering as a chubby infant. It seems that all the "same old, same old" stories are encouraging us to see the same messages as the much publicized one from the Mayans. Each year begins anew. Each day hold fresh promise. Each breath carries into us renewed possibility. We have reason to hope. We have responsibilities that connect us with all life.

"Keep fresh before me the moments of my High Resolve, that in good times or in tempests, I may not forget that to which my life is committed." (In our Hymnal, # 498, a sentiment from Howard Thurman.)

As this tender New Year of 2013 unfolds before us, May It Be that we seek guidance from the practices of compassion and love. May it be that we use our power and privilege to ease the burdens of others, to feed the hungry, cloth the naked, house the homeless, protect and educate the children. Happy New World Beginning, Dear Ones. Happy New Moment. May it be a Happy New Year: for all.

My love to each,
Rev Gail



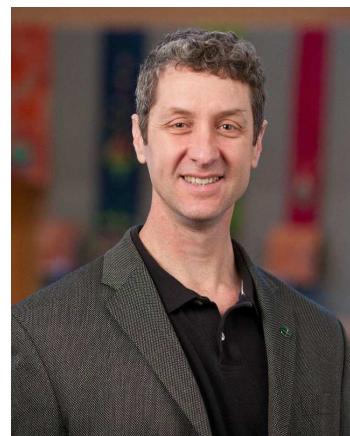
Musings

Rev. Mark Evens, Associate Minister

Depending: A Call for Stories, a Space for Conversation

In my pastoral care work within our congregation I live with the awareness that as our seniors get older, families do their best to provide support that can become more necessary and challenging as time passes. The relationship of caring and being cared for, being helpful and being dependent as physical and mental abilities decline can be deeply challenging on both sides of the relationship.

Again, as last month, words of May Sarton say it well:
"Human relations just are not fixed in their orbits like the planets-they're more like galaxies, changing all the time..."



The Pastoral Care team and I would like to make more space within our congregation and within our families for active conversation on issues and challenges related to seniors needing support and family members and friends striving to provide that support as the end of life draws near. January 27th I will devote my sermon to these issues. If you have stories of giving, receiving, or needing care that you would like to share I would welcome them. Perhaps you have questions you keep coming back to. Perhaps you have found your way through some of the dilemmas and paradoxes of this terrain and would like to share what you have found. I invite you to share what you choose by email or snail mail, or let me know that you would like a telephone or in-person conversation. We are better together than we are alone.

As we head into the New Year I wish you and all you love blessings of peace, of meaningful connection, and joy.

With love,
Mark



Busines of the Church: Memory & Tribute Gifts

Thom Bales, Executive Director

For the past several years, we have recognized a revenue line item in the Operating Budget for the receipt of "Memory & Tribute Gifts".

These gifts, which are above and beyond a member's or friend's pledge payment, are a special way to honor a friend or loved one who has passed away. By supporting the congregation, these gifts help ensure a legacy for the deceased that extends far into the future.

Many people have spontaneously contributed to the congregation in this manner. While we've noted those gifts on each contributor's giving record and been ever grateful for each contribution, we've never gone public with the donors as our own act of appreciation.



This year, we plan to recognize members and friends who contribute to UUAU with a Memory & Tribute Gift. Several times a year, we will list the names of the newest contributors, those who have made a special gift in memory or tribute of another person, in the UUAU newsletter. We believe this will encourage many others to contribute to UUAU in this manner.

Should you ever decide to make one of these special gifts, please add the words, "Memory & Tribute" to the memo line of your check, so we will know to recognize the donation, thank you for your generosity, and update your giving record correctly.

If you have any questions about Memory & Tribute giving opportunities, contact me at thom@uuaa.org.



Sandy Garges
Director of Spiritual Growth and Development



Daylight is becoming more substantive now that we have passed the winter solstice and, I have to say, it feels good! January brings a new year, new plans, and new experiences. I always appreciate hearing congregant's thoughts, ideas, and suggestions so please don't be a stranger! I am available on Sunday mornings as well as during the week to talk, to fill you in on current SGD activities or simply to listen.

I offer this reading to open the new year:

NEW YEAR'S DAY, by Kathleen McTigue

The first of January is another day dawning, the sun rising as the sun always rises, the earth moving in its rhythms,

With or without our calendars to name a certain day as the day of new beginning, separating the old from the new.

So it is: everything is the same, bound into its history as we ourselves are bound.

Yet also we stand at a threshold, the new year something truly new, still unformed, leaving a stunning power in our hands:

What shall we do with this great gift of Time, this year?

Let us begin by remembering that whatever justice, whatever peace and wholeness might bloom in our world this year,

We are the hearts and minds, the hands and feet, the embodiment of all the best visions of our people.

The new year can be new ground for the seeds of our dreams.

Let us take the step forward together, onto new ground,

Planting our dreams well, faithfully, and in joy.

(UUA Hymnal, [Singing the Living Tradition](#), Reading #544.)

With care,
Sandy



Welcome Ministry News
Hannah Hotchkiss, Welcome Ministries Coordinator



Volunteer Positions Big and Small

It is amazing to think of the number of congregants who participate each Sunday to make the services, SGD classes, Social Hour, activity-group tables, Chalice lightings, and more happen.

On a given Sunday between September and June, you are likely to be enjoying the work of 85 volunteers in the building. Of course, more goes on behind the scenes with volunteers organizing the Sunday crews, assisting with curriculum, making pastoral calls, and so much more. The amazing contributions of our congregants are what make this a vibrant, safe, and caring community.

If you would like to be a part of the helping hands of the congregation but don't know how to put your time and talents to the best use, please contact Hannah Hotchkiss. We have short, but crucial, tasks you can complete at home like laundering table cloths. We have once a month hospitality positions such as staffing the Involvement table during Social Hour. We have sales positions at the Equal Exchange Coffee table. There are so many opportunities -- to work alone or with a group - to be an organizer-to be a worker bee. For more information about how you can get involved, contact Hannah Hotchkiss, Welcome Ministries Coordinator, at Hannah@uuua.org or 734-665-6158.



News from the Harper Room Julie Dybdahl, YRUU Lead Advisor

YRUU finished 2012 with our Holiday Feast and Gnomapalooza on December 15. Twenty youth and some parents enjoyed a formal holiday dinner, with most youth dressed for a semi-formal affair - they looked great!

After dinner we took a shopping field trip to Meijer, where we money raised from apple dumplings sales bought gifts for kids at the Peace Neighborhood Center. It was great fun to see the youth - in suits and ties, glittery dresses and high heels - choosing gifts from hula hoops and basket balls to cameras and clothes. Back to the church then, to wrap the gifts, and stay up late watching movies.

Our year is ending with a much-needed cleaning of the Harper Room carpet and furniture.

Classes begin again on January 6, focusing on our topic of personal relationships. From January 19 through 21 we'll be off for the YRUU's annual ski/sled/skate trip.



Stewardship

Comprehensively Speaking

Margaret Pekarek, Co-Chair Comprehensive Campaign



Stewardship

So, we took some risks, didn't we? And look what happened! We tried to raise a whole bunch of money at an uncertain time in our economy. And we did, all of us together. And we went about it in a different way. We knew we were tired of political-ish campaigns. And we know what matters: our covenantal relationships with each other.

So, sixty-eight members of the Congregation took a risk and called up 4 or 5 or 10 or 20 people, often people they had not met or at least didn't know well (yet) and invited them to engage in a conversation. A conversation about how they happened to come to UUAA, what drew them here, why they stay a part of this Congregation. Many good conversations followed. New connections were made, older connections were strengthened.

Sure, not everyone felt comfortable taking that risk right away. That is OK. We are a big tent here, with care and room for all.

So here are some comments:

Almost all canvassers said they would do this again. And by again, I mean soon, even. We weren't able to visit all those members and friends we wanted to, so after January 15, we will start up again. Did you not get a visit? Do you want one? Call or email Tim, Ed, or Margaret and we will set you up for one of these conversations.

And those who received visits?

- Well, one lovely canvasser actually received a thank you note from a member she visited. I would like to quote from it: "Yours was a difficult task on behalf of the Congregation!..Thank you for your warmth and grace. Thank you for letting me engage the task with you here and now...Our door is always open to you..."
- "I already feel more connected. Thank you for visiting."
- I listened as my canvass partner said "We want you to be comfortable with what you pledge, with what you give." I heard "I don't know your giving history, but you do. Give what you feel is right for you."

Canvassers said:

- "The training really helped me feel comfortable initiating these visits."
- "I learned so much about our history as a Congregation."
- "I loved talking to new young people I had not gotten to meet before."
- "People were so nice, how they welcomed me."
- "It felt good to reach out to members."
- "It was hard at first, but I am proud that I did it."
- "My visit to this family was a wonderful and remarkable experience".

- "Meeting other UUs and talking about what brought these people to the church and what keeps them coming was a great experience. I learned a little about what was important to them, including sermons, our choir and chalice circles. These meetings are a meaningful way of connecting with other people in our UAAA community. Strengthening our connections takes time and effort but is so worthwhile."
- "I particularly enjoyed my visit with a couple that has recently joined UAAA whom I recognized but did not know very well at all. They have, however, had connections for several years to long-time members of UAAA and that, along with conversations about their children and importance of Interweave, the interim ministry period, and what drew them to UAAA was the most meaningful conversation I have had about UAAA this year. And while we did discuss church finances, it was more inquisitive to gain understanding than questioning, and from my past role as a trustee I was comfortable answering them. This conversation, along with our stewardship visit to the other couple who were making stewardship calls, have been a highlight for me in the 2012 church year."

We learned that we can be authentic, adult, and respectful. We learned that we can be responsible and accountable. And we learned again that when we sit together in our sanctuary in the company of those who wish us well, that carries over, is constant, sustains.

What a wonderful, interesting "family" this Congregation is. Were you a canvasser? If yes, thank you. If not, wouldn't you like to be one someday?

With very best wishes for a peaceful, happy, healthy and prosperous new year,

The Stewardship Umbrella Group: Tom Darnton, Rev. Fran Dew, Rev. Mark Evens, Neal Foster, Ed Lynn at edwardjlynn@yahoo.com, Margaret Pekarek at mdawsonpekarek@gmail.com, Bruce Shields, Tim Richards at tfrichards@gmail.com.



Activities and Events

Senior Dinner Out * January 2

Come join us for Senior Dinner on the first Wednesday of every month. We will meet at 6:00pm on Wednesday, January 2 at the Gourmet Garden Chinese restaurant on Stadium, in Ann Arbor. Good food, lots of conversation, and a relaxed atmosphere. See you there. Call Bev Todd at 734-330-9349, if you have any questions.



Game Day for Everyone * January 6

Stop by for a friendly board or card game. Fun for all ages and stages. We will have lots of games to choose from. You are welcome to bring a favorite.

Join us for a light vegetarian lunch, too (if you can, please bring a dish to pass). We will play between 1:00 to 4:00pm on Sunday, January 6. If you have any questions contact Shelley at 734-434-8823 or shellstoll@gmail.com.



Challenging Racism: Documentary with Discussion * January 13

Join the Challenging Racism committee on Sunday, January 13 from 1:00 to 3:30pm for a showing and discussion of the PBS documentary *Deforce: America's Past, America's Future, Detroit's Present*.

This documentary tackles Detroit's problems over the last half-century, recording how the city has been and delves into the nitty-gritty of policy decisions about public housing, the effect of the war on drugs, violence, and blight - all while still showing a city full of proud Detroiters.



Please contact Edie Croake at ecroake@wccnet.edu for any questions.



Interweave * January 1

Interweave will hold a meeting on Tuesday, January 15 in the Social Hall with Ann Jones presenting. All are welcome.

Potluck: 6:15pm - Bring a dish or a beverage to share. We ask everyone to label their contribution to the potluck with a list of the ingredients as we become more aware of folks with food allergies. Cooks who prepare a dish that is gluten or lactose free will be much appreciated.



Program: 7:00pm - feel free to join us for the program only.

We will be talking about sexuality at our next meeting. Ann Jones, who teaches Human Sexuality at Washtenaw Community College, will present the Human Sexual Response Cycle which includes attraction, approach, action, and appreciation.

Childcare is available with a two week notice.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Roylea Furniss at xenaphan2000@yahoo.com or Leigh Robertson at leigrobe@umich.edu.



Introduction to Our Faith * January 19

This class is an introduction to Unitarian Universalism for both newcomers and long-time members taught by UUAU ministers with assistance from lay members of the congregation. Topics include: history of Unitarian Universalism and this congregation, how this congregation is governed, how to get involved at UUAU, the meaning and responsibilities of membership, and participants' own spiritual journeys. Class will meet from 10:00am to 2:00pm on January 19.



To participate, please **sign up by Sunday, January 13**. A minimum of 8 participants is needed to run the class and there is a maximum of 20. Registration forms are available at the Involvement table and front entrance literature rack. You can also register on our website www.uuaa.org.

Childcare will be provided with enough interest. Child care requests must be submitted 2 weeks prior to the class. Please **register for childcare by Friday, January 4**.

If you have any questions or need help registering, contact Hannah Hotchkiss at 734-665-6158 ext. 136 or hannah@uuaa.org.

Men's Breakfast * January 19

All men are invited to attend the men's monthly breakfast on Saturday, January 19 at 8:15am in the Classic Cup Cafe. It is located on 4389 Jackson Rd, on the south side, one mile west of Wagner Road. We meet on the third Saturday of every month. Please contact Fred Lynch at 734-665-9904, if you have any questions.

Challenging Racism: MLK Celebration * January 21

Join Challenging Racism to celebrate the legacy of Martin Luther King.



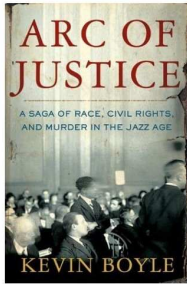
On Monday, January 21, at 10:00am, we will gather at Hill Auditorium for the Martin Luther King Day. Keynote Address by Morris Dees, Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) co-founder and chief trial counsel. SPLC is a national leader in the fight for civil and immigrant rights.



We will meet for lunch with fellow UU's at Panera's on North University for conversation after the lecture. Please contact Edie Croake at ecroake@wccnet.edu if you have any questions.

Challenging Racism: Book Discussion * January 27

On **Sunday, January 27** from 1:00 to 2:30pm we will discuss *Arc of Justice: A Saga of Race, Civil Rights, and Murder in the Jazz Age* by Kevin Boyle. The story of this sensational murder trial that divided a city and ignited the civil rights struggle in 1925, will be led by Alma King, long time Detroit resident.



Watch for UAAA and Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice activities in connection with the Ann Arbor Reads title, *The New Jim Crow*, beginning in January.

Please direct questions to Edie Croake at ecroake@wccnet.edu.



Leadership & Learning Workshop * February 2

The Leadership Development Team is organizing a workshop for current leaders of the many groups that work with the congregation to fulfill our mission of service in the beloved community.

The first in a series of workshops is: "**Volunteers: How Do We Build Our Dream Team?**" This workshop will target four crucial areas for creating a strong team of volunteers, recruiting, training, managing, and sustaining the team.

The workshop, led by Ann Jones, will be February 2, in the Fahs Chapel, from 9:00am to 1:00pm. We will provide coffee, snacks and a light lunch (salad and cookies). Please **RSVP by January 18**, space is limited to 30 participants.

This is the first of several workshops that focus on providing skills and information to help our lay leaders feel more connected and supported as we help build our beloved community at UAAA. If you have questions or want to take part of the workshop, please contact Vilma Mesa, ymmesa@comcast.net or Ann Jones, annjones75@att.net.

Ann Jones has a PhD in Organizational Development and Counseling Psychology. She has been an adjunct professor for over 30 years, teaching at Kent State, Cleveland State, University of St. Thomas, the University of Minnesota and various community colleges. Her work experience has crossed various industries including Ameritrust (Banking); The Cleveland Clinic (health care); American Greetings (manufacturing, sales); Supervalu (wholesale and retail food industry); Ernst and Young (Big 3 Accounting); and, most recently, the University of Minnesota where she was Director of Human Resources for the Academic Health Center's School of Dentistry. With her extensive background in HR, she has worked at recruiting, training, retaining, and managing employees.



One-Time Chalice Circle * February 3

One-Time Chalice Circles will begin on Sunday, February 3 at 1:00pm in the Young Room. Our first meeting of 2013 will have the topic of "What Love Is?" Registration for this session will meet in the Social Hall **January 6 through January 27**.

If you have any questions please contact Royla Furniss at xenaphan2000@yahoo.com.



2013 Goods and Services Auction * March 16



"May the sound of happy music, And the lilt of Irish laughter, fill your heart with gladness, that stays forever after."

This year's UUAU Goods and Services Auction will take place on St. Patrick's Day Eve, March 16, from 4:00 to 7:00pm at the church. Not only will the congregation's annual auction feature happy music and lilting laughter, but we can also promise a cornucopia of enticing items to bid on.

Happy music (and other genres) will be provided by singer Marsha Gayle and additional performers to be announced. Marsha specializes in the American songbook. A taste of what she has to offer can be found at www.marshagayle.net.

Lilting laughter will be provided by interactions with longtime friends in the congregation, and perhaps the opportunity to meet new ones (not to mention outfits worn in recognition of the auction theme).

How can you "fill your heart with gladness" three months in advance of the big event? If you are like most in this congregation, and your heart is filled by giving, we have an answer for you. Donate a dinner/party, a weekend at your cottage, concert or sports tickets, crafts, food or anything else that comes to mind. In fact, why not make a donation now and beat the rush? Just email donations team leader Hayley Boyse at hboyse@gmail.com.

Another path to a happy heart is to help the church by volunteering your time at the auction. There are many things that need to be done to make this event a reality. In doing so, you can provide a tremendous service to the church and get a discount on your auction ticket. If you are interested in volunteering, please email auction chair Jim Gallas at jagallas@comcast.net.



Family Camp 2013 * August 23

Making summer plans already? Mark your calendar for August 23 through August 26 for a getaway with UU friends at West Michigan's beautiful YMCA Camp Pinewood. This long weekend of fun is not just for families with children, but for all members and friends of UUAU. No matter what your age - come with your family, with friends, or by yourself - there's something for you at camp! Take a look at YMCA Camp Pinewood at www.camppinewood.com.



Relax or rev up for fun activities from sun up until late at night: swimming, sailing, canoeing, paddle boats, fishing, building sand castles, hiking, mountain biking, wall

climbing, ropes courses, archery, singing & dancing, bonfires, stargazing, great food and conversation, and more. There are counselor led activities for kids, including nursery care for ages 4 and under. Lodging will be in group cabins, in your tent, or small camper.

Come hang next summer - we're excited! More details will come soon.
Email familycamp@uuaa.org to get on the list or for more information.



Announcements and Notices

Leadership Development Team Calls for Board Nominations

In May, the congregation will elect four individuals to serve on the Board of Trustees in the following positions: Vice President/President Elect; Treasurer; and 2 Trustees At Large.

The Leadership Development Team will begin considering possible candidates in January. The job descriptions for these positions can be found at <http://www.uuaa.org/about-us/our-congregation/how-we-govern/ldt>.

If you are interested in serving the congregation in one of these roles or if there is someone you would like to nominate, please send an email message to one of the members of the LDT by January 13. In your message indicate why you or the person you're nominating would be a good Board member.

Nominations and questions can be sent to:
Paul Morris at paul.morris.a2@comcast.net
Kathy Edgren at kkedgren@gmail.com
Royla Furniss at xenaphan2000@yahoo.com
Connie McGuire at cmcguire@umich.edu
Vilma Mesa at ymmesa@comcast.net



Denominational Connections Team News

The Denominational Connections Team (DCT) serves as a conduit for the exchange of information between the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor (UUAA) and the wider Unitarian Universalist (UU) community, providing our congregation, and the denomination with a vibrant means of co-operating together and strengthening our identity as UUs.

All are welcome to the DCT meetings on the second Thursday of each month, from 7:00 to 8:30pm, in the Young Room. For more information contact DCT chair, Roberta Allen, at bert71allen@gmail.com.



The Denominational Connections Team has been working on a draft **Statement of Conscience (SOC)** on Immigration, <http://www.uua.org/immigration/re/moral/152647.shtml>, released by the

Commission on Social Witness (CSW). We have discussed possible suggestions for the SOC with those interested in immigration justice. The DCT will present proposed changes at our January Congregational meeting. They will then be submitted to the CSW. The CSW will review all comments for inclusion on the final SOC to be on the agenda for General Assembly, June in Louisville, Kentucky.

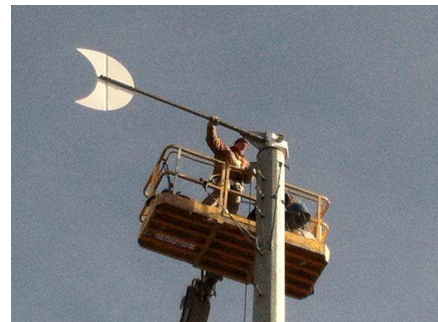
The 2013 Heartland District Assembly will be April 12 and 13 at the Horizon Convention Center in Muncie, IN. Delegates to the Heartland's District Assembly will be voting on the change to a Mid American Region. We are looking for members of our Congregation to be a delegate to represent UUAA at the meeting. If you are interested in being a delegate to District Assembly stop by our table during Social Hour to sign up or email Roberta Allen at bert71allen@gmail.com.

We are in the early stage of discussing the new Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI), Reproductive Justice: Expanding our Social Justice Calling and what this means to our Congregation and community. We hope there will be enough interest to hold a six-week course that will help us in this call to action. Stay tuned for more information in future newsletters.



Wind Turbine Update by Dave Friedrichs

As seasonal winds swirl their way across the property, the UU's 2500 watt wind generator is back in business, capturing all that passes into the 12 diameter circle swept by turbine's three rotors. Congregants can now return to the church's website to monitor both wind speed over the site and wind generator output at 15 minute intervals: www.uuaa.org/e



Working on the wind turbine.

The manufacturer (Xzeres) provided a replacement armature unit at no charge. Repairs were completed on Dec 5. Photographed from on high by Mark Doman and from the ground by Dave Friedrichs (see photos), congregant John Wakeman (SUR Energy) turned most of the wrenches and brought down the armature that failed prematurely.



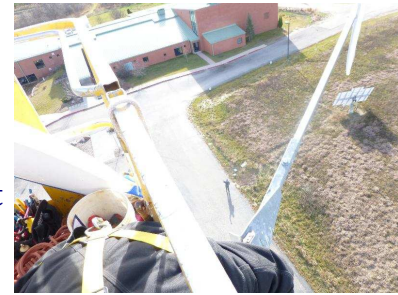
The rare earth magnets in the armature were found to be so strong that manual disassembly and diagnosis of what exactly had gone wrong was not possible. Small bolts and washers on the nose cone of the turbine showed wear; and these were replaced when the repair was made.

Despite strong winds in recent days, the wind turbine remained more silent than ever as it spun. Variable 3-phase AC power is generated, sent down the tower, through an underground conduit to a rectifier and

Congregant John Wakeman near the top of the wind turbine inverter inside

the church, connecting

directly into the electrical panel nearest the office. Natural and sustainable electrical power absolutely free of any fuel cost. Now repaired, may it last as long as the solar panels (which seem a nice complement, at 5x the size and often collecting energy from light when there is no wind).



Congregant Dave Friedrichs waves from below

If you have any question contact Dave Friedrichs at dave@homelandbuildersgroup.com.



Two Holiday Programs Ending Soon

Our **Guest at Your Table** and the Alpha House **Giving Tree** programs are two important holiday programs that will be ending on January 6.

Guest at Your Table annually raises funds for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). You can drop off your boxes and checks in the Church Office in the large box labeled for Guest at Your Table or the UUSC Coffee Table during Social Hour. Please put your name and address on your box. Contact Cathy Whitaker at cathywhit@gmail.com with any questions.



The **Alpha House Giving Tree** is sponsored by the 9th grade Coming of Age Class. Alpha House provides temporary shelter, food, and support services for homeless families. Place any of the following requested items under one of the **Giving Trees** located on the lower level or in the front foyer.

Below is a list of items requested by Alpha House.

- New Sheet Sets (twin)
- New Bathroom Mats/Rugs
- New Plastic Mattress Covers: Twin size
- New Shower Curtains
- New Trash Cans: For bedroom, bathroom & kitchen
- New Warm House Slippers for Women and Men
- New Towel Sets
- New Pillows
- Radio Alarm Clock
- Front Door Mat
- Baby Monitors
- Small Table Lamps
- New Very Warm Blankets: Twin or queen size, no small throws please
- New Pots & Pan Sets
- New Kitchen Towels

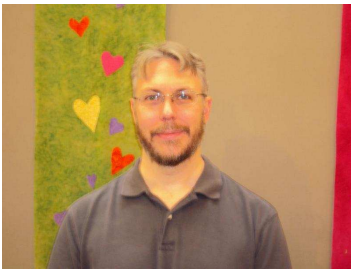


New Dish Sets
New Kitchen Utensils

Alpha House also requests gift card donations to be placed into the gold box under each tree. Contact Stephanie Surfus, COA facilitator, at stephaniesurfus@hotmail.com with any questions.

New Members

Brian Bruns



Brian Bruns has lived in Ann Arbor for almost 20 years. He began coming to UAAA four years ago. He has an adult son and a daughter who is in the 5th grade.

Brian works in information technology in the healthcare field focused on using IT to promote preventive care and chronic disease management. Brian is also nearing completion of his undergraduate degree in Computer Science at Eastern Michigan and is looking forward to graduate school in a related field.



Cristy Cardinal and Megan Hagan



Cristy Cardinal

"In my professional life, I run a very successful domestic violence and sexual assault prevention education program. I am also a feminist blogger and activist. Personally, I love fiber arts, spending time with my family, and eating popcorn."

Melanie Hagan

"I am a lawyer by training, but I work "behind the scenes" currently as a legal editor. Still relatively new to Ann Arbor, I enjoy finding new, fun activities and places to explore with my 2- year-old twins, Ruby and Milo."



Lucie Nisson



Lucie Nisson lives in Ann Arbor with her husband, Larry, and is the facilitator of the UAAA Drop-In Women's Circle. She is a retired clinical social worker and currently a mosaics artist and

women's group leader. She is on the UUAU Arts & Aesthetics Committee and volunteers in our nursery.



Rose Hill



Rose Hill is a 40-year-old freelance writer, work-at-home mom, and small fluffy poodle owner. She is writing her first novel and would love to have more creative friends and support.

rozilla@gmail.com.



Office News

Hours of Operation:

Sundays, 8:00am-9:00pm

Mondays-Thursdays, 9:00am-9:00pm

Fridays, CLOSED

Saturdays, 9:00am-5:00pm

The Church Office is open Mondays-Thursdays, 9:00am-5:00pm

Telephone: 734-665-6158

Fax: 734-665-7895

General Email: office@uuaa.org

The building will be closed on Tuesday, January 1, 2013.

Communicating at UUAU:

The deadline for submitting UUAU event, news, and program notices for inclusion in UUAU's Weekly Bulletin is 5:00pm each Wednesday. Send your submissions to bulletin@uuaa.org.

The deadline for submitting UUAU event, news, and program notices for inclusion in UUAU's Monthly Newsletter is 9:00am on the 21st of each month. Send your submissions to newsletter@uuaa.org.

Lay and staff program leaders may submit changes, additions or updates for the website (www.uuaa.org) to webtech@uuaa.org.

Building & Office Team:

Thom Bales, Executive Director, thom@uuaa.org

Debby Casamatta, Office Administrator, deborah@uuaa.org

Venus Gregory, Weekend Building Assistant, venus@uuaa.org

Arthur Whigham, Custodian, arthur@uuaa.org

Office Orientation dates:

Tuesday, January 15, 2013

Tuesday, April 2, 2013



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